

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK # 1

Name _____

1. Read "A Note to the Reader" on pages v and vi. Read chapter 1.
2. The environment of the early church consisted of a _____ empire, a _____ background, and influence of _____ thought.
3. We often think of the Roman Empire as hard, cruel, and an enemy of God. Yet, God used it in great ways. Name some ways *Pax Romana* benefited the spread of the gospel.

4. What was the Sanhedrin and what authority did it have?
 - A. The governing body of the Jews, dealt only with religious issues.
 - B. The governing body of the Jews, dealt only with civil issues.
 - C. The governing body of the Jews, dealt with both religious and civil issues.
 - D. A governing body of Romans, put in place to oversee the priests.
 - E. A governing body of Romans, put in place to oversee Jewish politics.
5. List some of the differences between the Sadducees and Pharisees.

7. How did God use the dispersion and the synagogue for the spread of the gospel?

8. What does the word *Septuagint* mean? What is the abbreviation (or symbol) that the Septuagint is sometimes referred to as? (Answer not in the book).

9. The section on GREEK THOUGHT may be a little hard to grasp, especially if you don't have any background in this area. Read the second paragraph on page 10 once more. We will deal with philosophy (including Platonism) in more depth later in our studies.

10. Which is the correct order?

- A. Socrates was a disciple of Plato who was a disciple of Aristotle.
- B. Plato was a disciple of Socrates who was a disciple of Aristotle.
- C. Aristotle was a disciple of Socrates who was a disciple of Plato.
- D. Aristotle was a disciple of Plato who was a disciple of Socrates.
- E. Plato was a disciple of Aristotle who was a disciple of Socrates.

11. Plato united in one philosophy the concern of the earlier thinkers to understand the world as a _____ and the concern of Socrates to understand _____.

12. Plato taught that (circle all that apply)

- A. matter is evil, spirit is good
- B. spirit is evil, matter is good
- C. spirit is eternal, matter is temporary
- D. both matter and spirit are eternal

13. What was the main, prevailing philosophy during the time of Christ?

14. This philosophy (#13 above) is basically

- a. modalism
- b. tritheism
- c. polytheism
- d. pantheism
- e. arianism
- f. monotheism

15. Note the last sentence in the 2nd paragraph on page 11. Appreciate it!

16. Philo is best known for his attempt to do what? (found on page 11).

17. Extra credit (answer not found in the book, but should come to mind if you have ever sat through my series on Christology). Philo's philosophy contributed to the heresies of:

- a. Arius
- b. Nestorius
- b. Apollianarius
- c. Eutyches

18. Read the last paragraph, STATE RELIGION, one more time.

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HOMEWORK # 2

Name _____

1. Read chapter 2.
2. Note the last sentence of the first paragraph (page 15).
3. The command to witness was not enough to create witnesses. There also had to be the _____ to witness and the _____ to witness.
4. Paraphrase the three fundamental changes that took place in the character and structure of the people of God at Pentecost?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
5. Name some differences between the Hebrew Jews and the Hellenist Jews.

6. Which Jews were the first persecutors of the early church?

7. The Palestinian church didn't develop missionary power because:
 - a. persecution was too intense
 - b. apathy and indifference
 - c. lack of spiritual gifts and supernatural power due to immorality in leadership
 - d. it was not possible to be both Christian and Jewish at the same time
8. Regarding the Jewish revolt against Rome, the Christian Jews sided with
 - a. those who supported the revolt
 - b. those who opposed the revolt
 - c. neither. Christians were bitterly split over this matter
9. Note the two last sentences in the first paragraph on page 21 ("Soon the church,...").

10. What was Paul's attitude toward the ecclesiastical leadership in Jerusalem?

11. What does "ecclesiastical" mean?

12. The mother church of Christianity is

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| a. Greek | c. Roman | e. Alexandrian |
| b. Egyptian | d. Jewish | f. Persian |

13. Paul faced his greatest opposition from

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| a. Romans | c. Greeks |
| b. Jews | d. Egyptians |

14. Jerusalem fell to the Romans in what year? _____ A.D.

15. Christianity had been spread throughout most of the empire _____ years after the death of Jesus.

16. Fill in the outline of this chapter – each section contains important points to the history of the primitive church and it will do us well to be familiar with them

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PENTECOST

PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANITY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

THE CHURCH OUTSIDE PALESTINE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

9. The apostolic fathers are those authors who _____
_____.

10. What are the names of some of the apostolic fathers?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

11. You can find the writings of the Apostolic Fathers in our library. I would encourage you to check it out for a week. The Didache is especially worth reading.

12. The author lists 4 warnings regarding the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. What are these?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

13. Name some things the early Christians did, and did not do, that would sometimes lead to their persecution.

14. How was a Christian slave regarded in the local church?

15. How did the practice of *penance* get started?

16. Read the last paragraph of the chapter one more time.

17. Would you have liked being a Christian during the second century? Explain your reason.

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HOMEWORK # 4

Name _____

1. Read chapter 4.
2. Tertullian said that the blood of the martyrs is the _____ of the church.
3. This chapter deals with the first period of persecution, from _____ A.D. to _____ A.D. Who was emperor of Rome in 250 A.D.? _____.
4. "Religio licita", or lawful religions: (circle all that apply)
 - a. taught that only the emperor could be worshiped
 - b. attempted to meet the spiritual needs of the people
 - c. were traditional religions already in place before Roman conquest
 - d. were required to openly condemn Christianity
 - e. required the worship of the emperor (except Judaism)
5. For a while, Judaism was regarded as religio licita. Why did the Romans not require the Jews to worship the emperor?

6. Why weren't Christians originally persecuted by Rome?

7. The first persecution against Christians by the Romans took place under emperor _____ in _____ A.D.
8. What was the primary reason Christians were eventually persecuted by the Romans?

9. When the Romans worshiped the emperor, they did not see themselves worshipping a man. Rather, he was a god who _____ the Roman empire. Therefore, emperor-worship was actually _____-worship.

10. To refuse the worship of the Roman gods, including the Roman Empire, was to invite their displeasure and _____. This refusal to worship them resulted in Christians being accused of _____. Persecution could have been avoided if the Christians would have simply _____ and worshiped the emperor and the Roman gods.

11. What are some other charges Christians were accused of that resulted in persecution?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

12. T F Christians were persecuted because they bore the name of Christ.

13. Originally, an “apology” meant the _____ of a person, cause, institution, or law that was being _____.

14. Apologists used 4 major arguments to defend Christianity:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

15. Paraphrase Emperor Trajan’s policy regarding the persecution of Christians. Note that this was the official policy for 100 years.

16. Note the last paragraph under DEGREES OF PERSECUTION on page 53. Read it twice.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK # 5

Name _____

1. Read chapter 5.

2. Match the following. GN = Gnosticism MA = Marcionism MO = Montanism

- _____ A mixture of Greek, Eastern, and Christian ideas
- _____ Church Father Tertullian joined it
- _____ An overall philosophy that had many different sects within it
- _____ There are 2 gods: one is revealed in the OT, the other is revealed in the NT
- _____ Root word means knowledge
- _____ The New Jerusalem would descend from heaven any day
- _____ Its founder was influenced by a gnostic teacher, Cerdo
- _____ Rejected all the gospels but Luke
- _____ God could not have anything to do with the physical world
- _____ Its concern about redemption helped shape its core philosophy
- _____ Emphasized prophecy and spiritual gifts
- _____ Concluded that something must have gone wrong in the spiritual world
- _____ Early traces of it are refuted in Colossians and 1John (this may require some digging)
- _____ Christ was given the souls of the redeemed to pay for God's sin of crucifying him
- _____ Its founder started his own church movement after his excommunication
- _____ Encouraged martyrdom
- _____ Took liberties to edit the letters of Paul for its own purposes
- _____ Developed its own canon of Scripture to support its beliefs
- _____ Two women left their husbands to help the founder start this new movement
- _____ Redemption is based upon a knowledge through revelation from the spiritual world
- _____ It was because of this that the church leaders got more serious about a NT canon
- _____ Its greatest teacher was Valentinus who considered himself a Christian
- _____ Its three leading prophets believed they could forgive the sins of others
- _____ There is no connection between the OT and the NT
- _____ Though it tried, it still failed to separate God wholly from the origin of evil
- _____ Made it easy for pagans to become Christians and for Christians to remain pagan
- _____ The God of the OT was righteous and vengeful; He was the creator but imperfect
- _____ The God of the NT was loving and merciful, a perfect God

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HOMEWORK # 6

Name _____

1. The second century church faced numerous challenges and changes because of these 3 “emergencies”.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. Over time, the church responded to these emergencies and challenges in three distinct, yet closely related, forms.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

3. Explain Apostolic succession.

4. The authority of the bishop was greatly increased during this time period because of the threat of:

- a. Church divisions
- b. Gnosticism
- c. Marcionism
- d. Scandals among pastors

5. The word “canon” is derived from a Greek word meaning _____.

6. T/F All the 27 books of the NT that we use today were always recognized as Scripture by all the church.

7. T/F James was not included in the original Muratorian Canon.

8. What was the most important standard used to determine a book's acceptance into the canon?

- A. doctrinal purity of the book or letter
- B. apostolic connection (written by an apostle or someone under an apostle).
- C. approval of the pope

9. Which statement is true:

- ' The 27 documents of the NT were officially decreed by the church to be Scripture, thus the church sits over the canon.
- ' The church merely confirmed or recognized the inspiration and authority of the 27 documents; one might say that these documents are "self-authenticating."

10. The threat of _____ helped move the church along to form a canon.

- A. persecution
- B. church divisions
- C. rapid missionary endeavors
- D. heresy

11. T/F The 27 documents of the NT are authoritative because of their connection to the apostles (written by an apostle or someone under an apostle.)

12. The word "creed" means, _____

13. Are there creedal statements in the New Testament? _____

14. T/F The Apostle's Creed was confessed by candidates for baptism.

15. The earliest form of the Apostle's Creed was also called the _____.
(note that it is this form that Church of the Lamb generally uses).

16. Which lines in this creed refute Gnosticism.

- " ...who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
- " ...and the third day rose from the dead
- " ...the resurrection of the flesh

17. Who wrote the Apostle's creed?

18. Read the last paragraph (page 77) at least twice.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #7

Name _____

1. Read chapter 7.

2. The _____ of the apostles and the rise of _____ and _____ helped to firm up the loose relationship churches had with each other.

3. During the second and third centuries the three most influential cities in the church were _____, _____, and _____.

4. What did Emperor Decius say that was quite striking?

5. Name some qualities of Romans that were used in the service of Christ.

6. The first bishop of Rome to exert authority outside of Rome was:

7. What did Victor, a bishop of Rome, threaten to do with the Asian churches?

8. His inability to compel Asia to obey him showed that
a. his leadership abilities were pathetic
b. he lacked courage and backbone
c. he was not recognized as a legitimate bishop
d. the claim to apostolicity was not all it was cracked up to be

9. By A.D. 200 Carthage had a _____ and _____ that were almost equal to Rome.

10. North Africa produced three great Christian leaders:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

11. Tertullian asked, *what has _____ the city of God have to do with _____ the city of philosophers?*

12. Who were the “confessors.”

13. What was Cyprian’s original position on readmitting the “lapsed” back into church? (pg 88).

14. Did he eventually change this policy?

15. How did Cyprian die?

16. Alexandria was a major center of Jewish people. True False

17. What is a Hellenistic Jew?

- A. A Jew born in the Greek province of Hellen
- B. A Jew who followed the teachings of Hellen
- C. A Jew who lived more like a Greek than a Jew
- D. A Jew who lived more like a Jew than a Greek

18. Note carefully the differences between Carthage and Alexandria found on the bottom of page 90 and the top of page 91. (No need to write them down).

19. Clement of Alexandria understood salvation as

- a. education
- b. keeping the Jewish law
- c. renouncing Rome

10. T F Origen was known for his brilliant mind (even if some of his ideas were nutty).

11. Some of Origen’s crazy ideas came from the influence of

- a. Greek philosophy
- b. His rebellious attitude
- c. Legalistic Jews
- d. Visions and dreams he often had

12. Read the last two sentences about Origen (page 94) twice.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #8

Name _____

1. Read chapter 8.

2. **D. Diocletian** **C. Constantine**

- _____ The first of the Christian emperors
- _____ The last of the great pagan emperors
- _____ Authored the "Edict of Milan" which stopped the persecution of Christians
- _____ Divided the Roman Empire into two parts, East and West
- _____ He aided the church with public grants
- _____ Ordered his son and wife killed
- _____ "In this sign conquer" was a vision he saw that led him to a military victory
- _____ Known for the advancement of emperor worship
- _____ The army tripled in size under him, setting up a complete military government
- _____ Was baptized right before he died
- _____ At age 24 he was supreme in the West and later ruled all of Rome
- _____ He died in loneliness and bitterness in December 316

3. According to the author, peace, prosperity, and security brought what to Rome:

4. The chief political power of Rome in the 2nd and 3rd centuries was

- a. the Senate
- b. the Roman army
- c. the church
- d. the citizens

5. To repel invaders and to maintain authority in the empire, the emperor

- a. prayed to their gods
- b. persecuted Christians
- c. imposed heavier taxes
- d. forced citizens to join the army

6. In the West the empire ceased to exist in _____ A.D. In the East it lasted until the fall of Constantinople in _____ A.D.

7. What is the main difference between the two periods of persecution?

- a. the first period of persecution was local, the second period was empire-wide
- b. the first period was initiated by Emperors, the second by Roman Popes
- c. the first period was rarely physical, the second was bloodier
- d. the first period was initiated by the Jews, the second by the Romans

8. The last paragraph on page 101 is worth reading carefully.

9. Why did Diocletian persecute Christians

- a. His wife and daughter hated Christianity
- b. Christians tried to impose their morality on him
- c. He blamed Christians for his military defeats
- d. We don't really know for sure, but it was probably due to Galerius

10. Diocletian authorized

- ' All Christians to be killed on the spot
- ' Clergy were to be imprisoned
- ' All Christians ordered to offer a sacrifice to the gods
- ' All churches to be destroyed
- ' All bishops to be crucified upside down
- ' All upper class Christians stripped of their official positions and privileges
- ' All Roman Christians deprived of their rights of citizenship
- ' Tax-exempt status of churches was revoked
- ' All sacred books burned

11. At the end of Diocletian's persecution, a church leader would be suspected of having betrayed the faith if:

12. Who repented on his deathbed, ordering an "edict of toleration" which temporarily stopped the persecution of Christians?

13. Who baptized Constantine and what is significant about this person's theology?
You will have to go digging for these answers as they are not found in this book.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #9

Name _____

1. Read chapter 9.
2. T F Adoptionism teaches that Jesus was a good and righteous man whom God adopted to be his son.
3. Sabellianism teaches
 - a. Christ is a created being
 - b. Christ is the Father
 - c. Christ is eternally distinct from the Father, yet not created
 - d. Christ is only a man
4. Arianism teaches
 - a. Christ is a created being
 - b. Christ is the Father
 - c. Christ is eternally distinct from the Father, yet not created
 - d. Christ is only a man
5. What was Constantine's goal in calling for a great church council to settle the debate about Christ's deity?

6. The Council of Nicaea
 - ' was attended by 300 bishops
 - ' was represented by 3 theological parties: Arius, Alexander, Eusebius (Caesarea)
 - ' was held in Asia Minor in 325 A.D.
 - ' produced a creed
 - ' rejected the teachings of Arius
 - ' eventually resulted in a political mess
 - ' is referred to as the First Ecumenical Council
7. The slogan of the Arian party was
 - a. "Grace alone. Faith alone. Christ alone."
 - b. "God of God, light of light"
 - c. "One incarnate Word"
 - d. "There was a time when he was not"
 - e. "We have no creed by Christ"
 - f. "Knowing God and making Him known"

8. Anathematized means: _____.

9. Homoousios means

- a. same substance
- b. similiar substance
- c. same person
- d. similar person

10. Articulate the major theological difference in understanding salvation between the Western Church and the Eastern Church (this difference still exists today).

11. Homoiousios means

- a. same substance
- b. same person
- c. similiar substance
- d. similar person

12. What are the names of the three Cappadocian Fathers?

- _____
- _____
- _____

13. What are these three men best remembered for?

14. What illustration did Augustine give to help explain the Trinity?

15. Emperor Theodosius

- ' Was a Christian
- ' Persecuted Christians for all their theological squabbles
- ' Didn't care either way about Arianism
- ' Convened the 2nd Ecumenical Council (at Constantinople)

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #10

Name _____

1. Read chapter 10.
2. The gospel spread to the Germans through a Goth named _____. Unfortunately, in his christology he was _____. Therefore, most of the early German converts were also _____. He also invented a Gothic _____ so that the Bible could be translated into the Gothic language.
3. Read carefully the last paragraph on page 126.
4. The section "Clovis and the Franks" on page 127 is quite interesting.
5. The section "The Church and Civilization" on page 128 is very insightful.
6. What is an ascetic?
7. What is monasticism?
8. What are the two kinds of monasticism?
 - a. city and desert
 - b. mental and physical
 - c. government approved and government prohibited
 - d. individual and communal
9. Benedict
 - ' became a monk because he was sickened by the immorality in Rome
 - ' eventually organized 12 monasteries for disciples
 - ' established the "Benedict's Rule"
 - ' spread among both men and women (nunneries)
10. The founder of Irish Christianity is _____.
11. Reread the last section, "Benefits of Monasticism."

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #11

Name _____

1. Read chapter 11.
2. What was the lower clergy?
3. What was the higher clergy?
4. What was the patriarchal bishop?
5. A. at the beginning of the 4th century B. at the end of the 4th century
 _____ Christianity was legal
 _____ Christianity was illegal
 _____ Arianism was illegal
 _____ Paganism was illegal
6. The Donatist controversy had to do with
 - a. the deity of Jesus Christ
 - b. the authority of the Roman bishop
 - c. the recognition of Augustine as a bishop
 - d. the ordination of a bishop
7. Read carefully the list of church-state examples on pages 138 and 139.
8. List a couple disadvantages of this church-state relationship.
9. The last emperor who tried to restore paganism was _____.
10. The persecution of heresy was
 - ' common under both Constantine and Theodosius
 - ' practiced throughout the Middle ages
 - ' considered proper by both Catholics and Protestants during Reformation
11. According to the author, what does the Vatican today witness to?

12. The Christmas celebration was preceded by _____ weeks of _____.
13. The Easter celebration was preceded by _____ weeks of _____.
14. The universal recognition of Sunday as a day of worship began with Emperor _____ in his decree dated _____ A.D.
15. What is a catechumen? (you will have to find the answer apart from the book)
16. What is a communicant? (you will have to find the answer apart from the book)
17. When the preacher would make a strong point, the congregation would often
- a. applaud
 - b. shout "amen" or "hallelujah"
 - c. sit quietly
 - d. speak in tongues
18. What factors led to infant baptism?
19. In the New Testament all believers are regarded as saints. Later in church history, saints were only those who:
20. How did the battle against Arianism help promote the practice of praying to Mary the mother of Jesus?
21. According to the author, "there is perhaps no point at which paganism influenced Christianity more clearly and openly than in the _____.
23. What is the difference between worship and veneration? (answer not in the book)
22. What are pilgrimages? Why were they so important to the early Christians?

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #12

Name _____

1. Read chapter 12

2. A. Ambrose C. John Chrysostom
 B. Jerome D. Augustine

- _____ Refuted the Pelagians who believed that man does not have a sin nature
- _____ Bishop of Milan
- _____ Name means “golden mouth”
- _____ Studied under a pagan who wept when Emperor Julian (the apostate) died
- _____ Wrote “The Confessions”, “The City of God”, and “On the Trinity”
- _____ A linguistic scholar who translated the Bible into Latin, called the Vulgate
- _____ Had a life-changing dream while on a long fast
- _____ Elected bishop even before he was baptized
- _____ Before his conversion, he prayed “Give me chastity, but not yet!”
- _____ Declared a saint by the church even though he was proud, jealous and a hothead
- _____ Rebuked emperor Theodosius and refused him entrance into the church
- _____ Arrested while officiating at a baptism service
- _____ One of the greatest preachers in church history
- _____ Arians helped to elect him, even though he strongly opposed Arianism
- _____ Was baptized by Ambrose
- _____ Was influenced by Neo-Platonism
- _____ Lived in the desert for 5 years in an effort to kill off his temptations
- _____ The Emperor’s wife conspired against him after he preached about Jezebel
- _____ One of the greatest theologians of the early church, especially in the West
- _____ Wrote a very popular prayer still used in worship services today

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
HOMEWORK #13

1. Read chapter 13

Regarding the “problem of the human and the divine in Christ,” briefly summarize the views of the following cities and people, highlighting that which makes it distinct from the other views.

2. The West (Tertullian)

3. Antioch

4. Alexandria

5. Apollinarius

6. Cyril of Alexandria

7. Nestorius

8. Eutyches

9. The Statement of Chalcedon

¡ Congratulations! This concludes A Short History of the Early Church.

10. Rate this book: ' Very helpful ' Somewhat helpful ' Not very helpful

11. Rate this book: ' Easy to understand ' About at the right level ' A little difficult